

## Emergency Planning

Emergency Planning is intended to cope with a major emergency that seriously affects people, buildings or the environment including transport accidents, a major fire, severe weather such as heavy snow, flooding or high winds, security-related incidents, including bomb warnings and terrorist attacks, and health alerts such as flu pandemic.

The Chelmsford Emergency Planning Unit operate from a District Emergency Centre - a bunker located in the basement of the Civic Centre in Chelmsford. The centre has thick armoured doors and is equipped with multiple telephone answering stations.

The unit works with a wide range of other agencies and neighbouring districts, regularly assesses the threats and risks to the Chelmsford area and plans for the response and recovery should such an emergency occur.

As a parish, our main involvement is the provision of an Emergency Rest Centre to provide temporary shelter for people affected by an emergency. Sandon School and Village Hall have been designated as Rest Centres. I will be organising a Parish Team to provide an immediate response in the event of an emergency. The initial responsibility of our team will be to open up the centre and put the kettle on, ready for the arrival of evacuees and of the Emergency Team from Chelmsford. On arrival, each evacuee will be given a Registration Card to fill in so that we know who is there. Later, our team will provide backup for the Emergency Team, as needed.

If you would like to volunteer to join the parish emergency team, please get in touch with me, David Pearson, on 471589. I hope to arrange a short training course at some point so that we can learn what we are supposed to do if called upon. **It may never happen but it is best to be prepared.**

For more information on Emergency Planning in Chelmsford, see the web site [www.chelmsfordresilience.info](http://www.chelmsfordresilience.info). A lot of information is available on the site, including a selection of leaflets.

**Vulnerable Persons Register** The Council's are keen to identify those people who might need specific help in the event of a major incident necessitating evacuation from their homes. For example, it is important that we know if you are hard of hearing and unlikely to hear a loudhailer evacuation message or are bedridden and unable to evacuate yourself without assistance. A form is available on the CBC web site <http://www.chelmsfordbc.gov.uk/index.cfm?articleid=16688#> that allows vulnerable people or their carers to inform the Emergency Planning Unit of their situation. The information will be treated as confidential but will be shared with the Emergency Services and Community Response teams.

**Grab Bag** If you had to leave your home suddenly in an emergency, what would you take with you? One solution is to prepare a Grab Bag. This might contain:

Prescription medicines details - for the family	Notebook, pen/pencil
Toiletries	Spare glasses/contact lenses
Identity documents	Mobile phone charger
First aid kit	Contact list - including phone numbers
Radio (battery or wind up)	Insurance details
Torch (battery or wind up)	Spare keys for house/car
Spare batteries	What else? (chocolate is always useful)